

# KDHE Staff Tours Gray County Wind Farm

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*Staff Writer*

KDHE Bureau of Waste Management staff from Topeka and all the district offices approached the wind turbines towering in excess of 200 feet above them. Surrounded by 170 turbines spaced 520 feet apart, the staff found what they saw memorable.

“This is quite a site that can be seen for up to 25 miles because of the flat terrain,” said Denise Boles, who attended the tour.

Doug Dumler who arranged for the tour of the Gray County Wind Farm said that it was, “pretty impressive to visit.”

After a full day of meetings, staff were invited to partake in an educational and entertaining event. Dumler said the tour gave them insight into what was unique to the southwest Kansas area.



**KDHE Staff from Topeka and district offices from across the state toured the Gray County Wind Farm May 12.**

According to Aquila Energy Resources, who distribute the power generated by the wind farm, the turbines generate enough electricity to power 33,000 homes. Aquila says the, “Gray County Wind Farm is the largest wind farm project in the U.S. not mandated by a state regulatory commission as part of a utility company’s energy mix.”

The wind farm contributes environmentally by saving 585,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year at the wind farm. This figure is the equivalent of having a 120-square mile forest on the Southwest Kansas Plains. Florida Power and Light Energy says “wind provides clean, renewable energy.” The company also says this type of energy development will save on fossil fuel resources such as coal, natural gas, and oil. Most importantly, they say that with the energy produced by wind, there is no need to burn fossil fuels which helps save the environment as well.

The wind farm is located east of Montezuma, KS off of Highway 56. Florida Power and Light Energy owns the farm that stretches over 12,000 acres. Only six acres are directly used for the tower sites and roads. A kiosk is available that provides information and exhibits smaller versions of the wind turbines for visitors to learn more about the wind farm.



**KDHE Staffers get up close and personal with the 200-foot wind turbines. Florida Power and Light Energy owns the farm.**

For more information pertaining about the Gray County Wind Farm, call 1-888-867-3050 or visit the FPL Energy Gray County Energy Center Web site at [www.fplenergy.com](http://www.fplenergy.com).